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TAGS: ETRD, KS

SUBJECT: WASHINGTON POST ARTICLE ON TEXTILES

FOR JURICH,SMITH, BLACKMAN

1. WASHINGTON POST ARTICLE OF NOV. 1 REPORTS PLANS BY
AMALGAMATED CLOTHING WORKERS FOR BROAD BASED WALKOUT BY
250,000 OF ITS MEMBERS ON NOV. 11 TO PROTEST "RISING
VOLUME OF MEN'S CLOTHING BEING MADE WITH CHEAP LABOR ABROAD
AND THEN IMPORTED INTO THE U.S."

2. ARTICLE GIVES LOW WAGE RATES OF 11 CENTS PER HOUR IN
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KOREA, 23 CENTS IN TAIWAN, AND 25 CENTS IN COLOMBIA, AND

COMPARES THEM TO US RATES, AND COST STRUCTURE OF MEN'S SUITS. IT QUOTES MURRAY H. FINLEY, PRESIDENT OF ACW, AS SAYING SAVINGS FROM THESE LOW WAGES, HOWEVER, NOT PASSED ON TO CONSUMER, BUT ARE "GENERALLY POCKETED BY MIDDLEMEN".

3. REASON GIVEN FOR ANNOUNCEMENT OF WALK OUT/DEMONSTRATION IS "US DELEGATION WILL BEGIN NEXT WEEK TO RE-NEGOTIATE A TRADE PACT WITH SOUTH KOREA." IT STATES THAT, UNDER MFA, US CANNOT COMPLETELY SHUT OUT CLOTHING MADE IN OTHER COUNTRIES, SUCH AS KOREA. HOWEVER, MFA DOES LEAVE US SOME LATITUDE, AND SAYS FINLEY, "WE WANT OUR

NEGOTIATORS TO TAKE A STRONG POSITION." ARTICLE SAYS ACW WANTS IMPORTS FROM ALL COUNTRIES LIMITED, AND OPPOSES TRADE BILL BECAUSE IT DOES NOT POINT IN THAT DIRECTION.

4. FINLEY IS QUOTED AS SAYING PROBLEM IS NOT 807 TRADE, BUT RATHER REGULAR IMPORTERS WHO IMPORT AND SELL TO DEPARTMENT STORES, ETC. DEMONSTRATIONS ARE PLANNED OUTSIDE DEPARTMENT STORES WHICH SELL IMPORTED CLOTHING, INCLUDING WOODIES HERE.

5. FINLEY SAYS PROBLEM COMPOUNDED BY GENERAL DOWNTURN IN DEMAND, AND GIVES FIGURES ON CLOSING OF APPAREL MANUFACTURERS. HE STATES 113 MANUFACTURERS WITH TERMINAL 9100 EMPLOYEES (NORMAL LEVEL PRIOR DECLINE CONSIDERABLY HIGHER) WENT OUT OF BUSINESS IN THREE YEARS ENDING DEC. 1973, AND ANOTHER 30 COMPANIES WITH 1900 WORKERS CLOSED DURING FIRST SEVEN MONTHS THIS YEAR. SHUTDOWNS EXPECTED TO CONTINUE AND "PERHAPS ACCELERATE". US TEXTILE INDUSTRIES ARE "IN A RECESSION, ALMOST BORDERING ON A DEPRESSION."

6. SIMILAR, SHORTER ARTICLE APPEARS ON PAGE 17 OF NOV. 1 WSJOURNAL. INGERSOLL

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